

YOUR BLIND SPOT

Did you know that everyone has a blind spot? The front of your eye is like the lens of a camera. This lens directs the rays of light to the back of your eye. This part of your eye is called the retina. It contains special cells called photoreceptors or neurons. Attached to the retina is the optic nerve. It is like a cable attaching the retina to the brain. Where the optic nerve is joined to the retina, there are no photoreceptors. So at this location, the brain does not get information from the eye. This is known as the blind spot. Each eye has one. In this activity, you will find the blind spot in each eye.

You Will Need

one copy of this page or simply use the computer monitor you are now looking at



What to Do

1. If you printed this page, hold it at arm's length. If you want to just use the computer monitor, you should be about two feet from the screen.
2. Close your right eye and stare at the drawing of the girl. You should also be able to see the boy.
3. While looking at the girl, slowly move your head toward the page or screen. At some point the drawing of the boy disappears. The image of the boy is now in the blind spot of your left eye. Continue to move your head forward, and the boy reappears.
4. Now try it with your left eye closed and look at the boy. Move your head slowly forward and the girl disappears. Continue moving forward, and the girl reappears.

Review

So why does the boy or girl disappear? They disappear because the image of the boy or girl falls on the place where the optic nerve and retina are joined together. There are no photoreceptors in this location so no image is able to travel to your brain.

On the Internet

For more blind spot activities, go to:

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/chvision.html>